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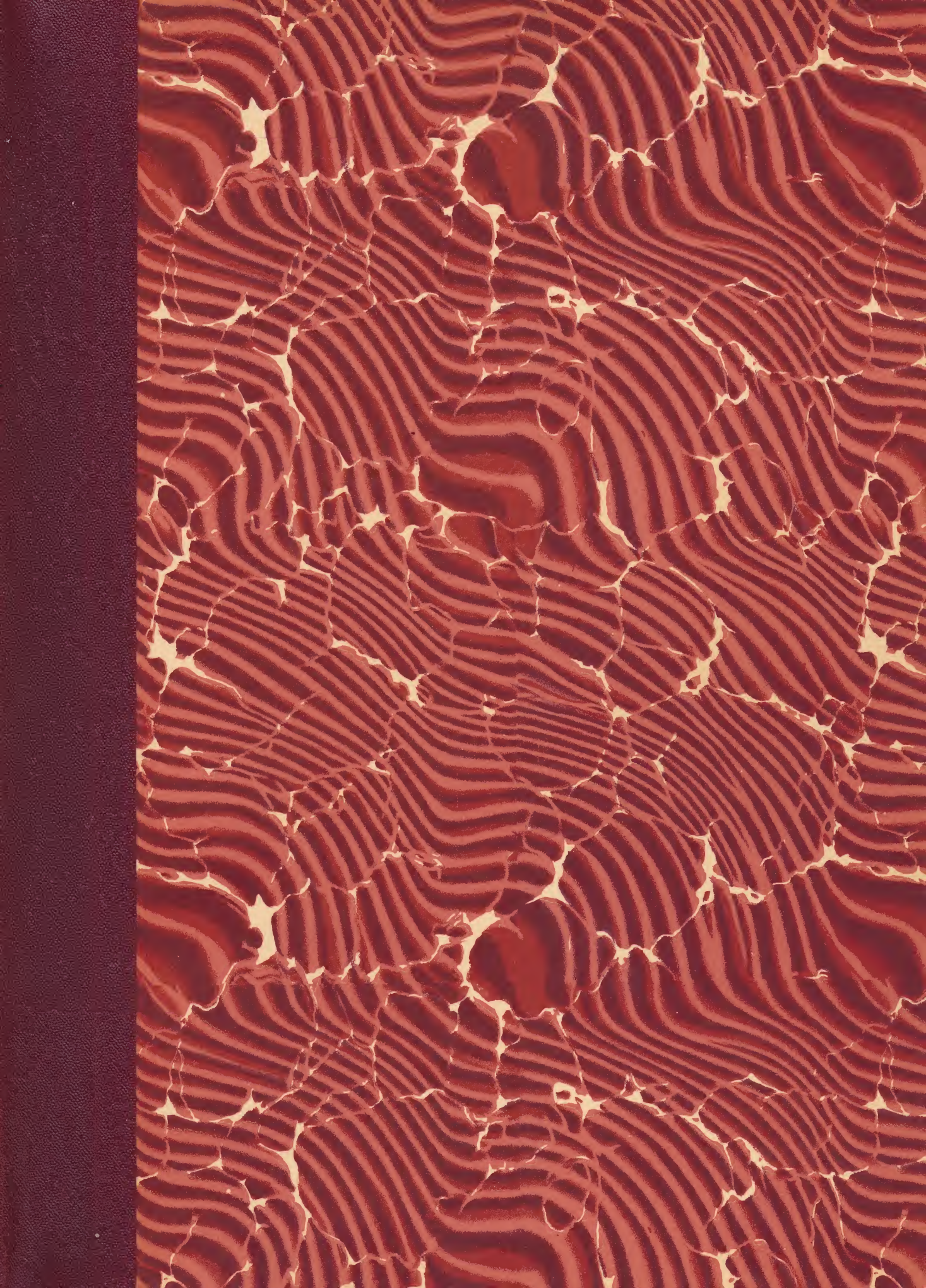
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# HISTORICAL DIRECTORY



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# HISTORICAL DIRECTORY



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Glen Billings Kent









*Lola Wagner Kent*



Lola Wagner Kent

MR . & MRS .  
GLEN BILLINGS KENT  
1877 - 1943

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Glen Billings Kent was born on a farm in Trowbridge township, Allegan county, Michigan, December 24, 1877. His father, Frank L. Kent, was born in Watson township, Allegan county, Michigan, February 22, 1852. After he was married he built a house on the farm in Trowbridge township which his wife had inherited from her father's estate. This is the farm on which Glen was born and which was inherited by him upon the death of his parents. When Glen was five years of age the family moved to Watson and bought the general store there. Frank L. Kent lived to be one of the oldest members of the Odd Fellows, having been a member for fifty-three years. He died September 16, 1932, and his funeral was conducted from the Benson Funeral Home in Allegan by the Reverend S. E. Kelley of Allegan officiating.

Glen's mother, Nellie Billings Kent, of Scotch-Spanish ancestry, was born April 23, 1858, and passed away August 18, 1923. Glen's sister Mildred





was born February 28, 1892, married Bert Barber and resides at the time of this writing in 1943 in Neenah, Wisconsin.

Glen attended school at Watson Corners until he was ready for high school when the family moved to Allegan, Michigan, where Glen was graduated in 1898, and was president of his class and his oration on "A Grecian Hero" was the last on the program of the first evening, the commencement program being in two parts given in the First Baptist Church in Allegan June 15 and 16. The year before he participated in an oratorical contest with eight others and his oration was at that time last on the program and his subject was, "Patriotism in Time of Peace." This was but one of a number of oratorical contests in which Glen represented the Allegan schools in competition with other public schools in the state.

After his graduation from high school young Glen B. Kent studied law for a year in the office of attorney Myron Moore of Allegan.

In 1899, he came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to work in the elevator of his uncle, Morris Kent, on East Michigan Avenue. This was a large concern doing a thriving business and Glen worked in the office when in the city, but spent much of his time





traveling and selling the merchandise of the company. He was also salesman for the city of Kalamazoo. Early in the 1900s he became a partner with his uncle, Morris Kent, and a new elevator was erected on East Water street under Glen's personal supervision. The business expanded until there were many stations throughout the state and the company enjoyed the largest shipping business in its line in southwestern Michigan. The business was discontinued in 1914, but Mr. Glen B. Kent continued to sell flour and produce. During the first world war he sold train loads of potatoes and other produce to Camp Custer.

July 18, 1914, he was married to Lola Wagner, formerly of Colon, Michigan. She came to Kalamazoo to attend school and was graduated from Parson's Business College in 1907. Some time later she accepted a position in the office of the Humphrey Company. She was born in Branch county, Michigan, February 21, 1885, the daughter of Wirt Wagner and Harriet Ellen Russell Wagner. Wirt Wagner was of German stock and was born December 28, 1851 and died June 30, 1927. Harriet Ellen Russell's mother was a Bartholomew of French descent; her father was Scotch Irish and her maternal grand mother was English, descended from the Adams family





of Massachusetts, and with this was mingled the blood of the Scotch and Irish. Lola Wagner's mother was born April 20, 1865 and died January 30, 1902. Besides Lola the children of the family were: Lottie, who married Charles Iwan and resides in South Bend, Indiana; Mabel, who married Robert Fair and lives in Mongo, Indiana; Raymond, who married Gertrude Gilkinson and is a resident of Trenton, Michigan; Joel, a citizen of Colon, Michigan; Albion, who married Mary Hunt and had his home in Colon, Michigan, until his death in 1942.

After their marriage in LaGrange, Indiana, by the Reverend J. T. Bean, a Methodist pastor, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Billings Kent began housekeeping on Engleman avenue, where he had built his house. The following March they purchased the present home at 628 South Burdick street and made it an income property. August 11, 1919, a son was born, but did not live.

In May, 1915, Mr. Kent took an entire train load of potatoes to San Francisco, California. He was accompanied by Mrs. Kent and they attended the Columbian Exposition, which was being held there at that time. Mr. Kent had attended the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893; he also attended the Fair held in that city forty years later.

In October of 1915, Mrs. Kent gave up her position with the Humphrey Heating Company and she





and her husband became partners in the Glen B. Kent Grain and Produce Company, located at 417 East Michigan avenue, later acquiring all the property between that and East Water street. A few years later they moved the office to the place of his former business with his uncle Morris Kent.

In 1922, Mr. and Mrs. Kent disposed of their business. In 1920 they had bought a large income property at 101-105 West Dutton street, which they remodelled into desirable apartments in which fifty people could be housed, at the same time managing, improving and expanding the income property in which they made their home.

Mr. Kent had inherited from his mother the farm where he was born. He had tenants living on the farm and he spent a good deal of time and money improving it.

The Kents continued actively working together until the summer of 1942 when Mr. Kent's health failed and Mrs. Kent gradually assumed entire management. He passed away April 20, 1943. Besides his devoted wife there were two children by a former marriage to survive him, Carlos and Ardis. Burial services were conducted by the Reverend Father A. G. Fowkes of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal





Church with interment in Mountain Home cemetery.

In personal appearance, Mr. Kent was about five feet four inches tall and weighed about one hundred and fifty pounds. He was considered to be a fine looking man with black hair and dark gray eyes.

For recreation he liked to fish and was fond of reading, especially history and law. When in school he played on the foot-ball team and was an enthusiast for foot-ball games to the very last. He also enjoyed music and entertained himself at the piano. Traveling was a pleasure Mr. and Mrs. Kent enjoyed together, making trips to the east coast and the west coast of the United States and also to the Southern States and the Gulf of Mexico and to Canada and all around the Great Lakes. In politics he favored the Republican party and in religion the Presbyterian Church. He was an energetic worker and possessed an engaging personality.

Mr. Kent had a capacity for friendship and drew his many friends from all walks of life. He and Mrs. Kent gathered their friends often into their spacious home to enjoy their generous hospitality. He was a ready conversationalist, quick at repartee and witty. He was generous with his money and good causes received his support.





Long ago Mr. and Mrs. Kent became partners in both business and home making and spent many happy years together, partners to the last. Although he was cut off in the prime of life, he lives on in the hearts of his devoted wife and friends. To the partner who is left one might say with the poet:

"Push gaily on, strong heart, the while  
You travel forward mile by mile,  
He loiters backward with a smile,  
Till you can overtake."

On the following pages is a copy of reminiscences by James E. Kent, a relative of Glen Billings Kent.



## R E M I N I S C E N C E S

James E. Kent

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The following reminiscences by James E. Kent, of Watson, Allegan county, Michigan, given at a meeting of the pioneers and published in the Otsego Union October 5, 1899, portrays some of the history and experiences of the Kent family. The William S. Kent mentioned below was the grandfather of Glen B. Kent, and a cousin of another William Kent to whom reference is made.

"William Kent, the descendants of whom I am about to speak, emigrated from Essex county, England, nearly one hundred fifty years ago. He married a Pennsylvania woman of Holland descent, whose maiden name was Tamar Brower. To them were born eleven children, five boys and six girls, ten of whom lived to the age of maturity, Jeremiah dying in infancy. The four boys were Robert, John, James, and William, who was the youngest of the family and my father. He was born August 7, 1796, in Franklin county, township of Highgate, Vermont. He married Harriet Henderson, who was born in Onondaga county, town of Schoys, New York. They settled first in the township of Whitby, Canada, where they remained until





1839, when they moved to the township of Franklin, Lenawee county, Michigan. Thence to the township of Watson, Allegan county, in June, 1847. The four boys referred to have all passed away, my father being the last, who died January 25, 1884, in his 88th year.

James Kent moved from Ohio to Allegan county in 1845, settling north of Otsego village, on the farm now occupied by Albert Gates, where he remained until the next season when he moved to what is now the township of Watson, where he owned  $105\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land.

William S. Kent was the next who came to Watson, moving from Lenawee county in December, 1846. In the early spring of 1847, my father, accompanied by my two oldest brothers, George and William, came to Watson and chopped and logged four acres of land and erected a house into which the family moved in June and upon the same farm my father and mother spent the remainder of their days. The farm is still occupied by two of my brothers.

The nine children of James Kent lived in Watson at one time. The eleven children of William Kent, my father, also lived in Watson and six of John Kent's children. Adding the descendants and those who have





taken the name by marriage it makes a total of 77 Kents who have lived in Watson within the last 54 years, who have all been industrious and law abiding citizens.

So much as a brief history of the Kent family. I will now give a few reminiscences of the family in an early day.

We brought with us four cows, two of which were quite well bred Durhams. So you will perceive that more than fifty years ago people talked of short horns, cut while today they saw their horns off close to their heads; a pair of yearling steers which grew to be the ox team and which I drove many a day, 49 sheep, quite a drove of hogs, called those days the Grass breed; and one three-year-old colt. At that time there was but one other horse in Watson. One reason for bringing so much stock with us was that they could be driven hence. Farm implements were exchanged for sheep, etc., which was a great mistake as the sheep continually wandered, never returning, and it was years after before we had as many as we brought with us. I spent many days hunting the sheep, driving them home in less numbers each time until they were nearly all gone. One time I found part of the flock two miles south of what is now



Monteith, where the Brown school house was afterwards built. One spring a few years later I hunted cows three days each time at three different times before finding them. J. W. Kent once hunted a week before finding his cattle. He then found them east of where James Stout's father lived in Gunplain, near an old ashery, and where I found the sheep, over nine miles from home. I once found our cattle just north of where V. R. Hooper now lives in Gunplain. Stock of all kinds was inclined to wander those days and there was nothing to hinder them. Uncle Sam's pastures were large and we all occupied them free of charge.

There was a great deal of sickness in this country in an early day, but I can't think the diseases were as fatal as the prevalent diseases of the present time however. I never heard of anyone escaping death those days by drying up and blowing away. There were seventeen sick at our home at one time (this included my oldest sister and her family) not one able to assist the other. There were no fatalities at that time, all being sick with billious and chill fevers. You may think that I am prevaricating but the statement can be verified by some present here today, whose word is indisputable.





I will now tell you of some of our experiences with wild animals. About the first of December, in the year 1847, I started from our house to go to my brother-in-law's. I had with me two dogs. The short cut was a foot-path across the woods about one and one-half miles. When about one-half mile from home the dogs encountered two wild cats and succeeded in treeing one before I got to them. I approached the tree, the cat didn't seem inclined to come down and get any nearer to me, and, in fact, I didn't desire him to. There was about two inches of snow on the ground, the first of the season. I started for home at a brisk rate (don't ask me if I looked back occasionally to see if I had company. I didn't want any, I was in a hurry.) When I arrived home I told father that the dogs had treed a wild cat and were after another in the swamp near big lake. He asked how I knew they were wild cats. I said their tracks were like tame cats and four times as large and I saw the one that was in the tree and was near to it. He said he guessed I was right and took the gun and started. When we got back the cat was still on the limb where I had left it. Father was not a good shot with a rifle and persuaded me to shoot the cat. I was soon convinced that he had the best of





the argument, took the gun, steadying it against a tree, took deliberate aim and fired. Down came the cat, pierced by the ball just back of the shoulders, as he had instructed me to aim, but with life enough left to give one of the dogs an imprint with his claw which he carried several weeks. This occurred about the time of my tenth birthday.

A few years later a big brown bear selected the largest hog we had and although he bit and tore the flesh from the shoulder to the hips so that portions of the back bone were visible, he did not succeed in killing it. Perhaps he released it to select a smaller one, but we were very soon there with dog and gun and met the bear face to face. I was a few steps in advance of father when we discovered him but our positions changed quicker than I can tell you about it and he was ahead although he always insisted that it was not his fault. He exclaimed, "Why don't you shoot!" But before I could regain the advance the bear ran down into a small swale, where he halted until we came in sight and I shot at him but missed. A few months later another bear came into the chopping and caught a hog and was eating it up alive. The dog got to him first and interfered in behalf of the hog and he chased him



away. They continued to skirmish until we were within two or three rods of them, having approached so as to be unobserved because of logs that intervened. On this occasion we had two guns, the old smooth bore with which each of my brothers and myself shot our first deer, and a very small shot gun. The main spring in the lock of the rifle being so weak it would not explode a cap, I gave him the contents of the shot gun and he departed in great haste. This was our last experience with bears."







Morris Kent



M O R R I S   K E N T

1 8 4 6   -   1 9 3 3

Morris Kent was born on a farm near Watson Corners, Allegan County, Michigan, on May 28th, 1847. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Kent, who had located in that region in 1846.

Six months after his sixteenth birthday, the boy, Morris, walked to the village and enlisted in the Union Army, and was sent to Kalamazoo where the Third Michigan Cavalry was being recruited. He was assigned to Company C. A few weeks later, the regiment was moved from Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids, and from there to Detroit to be drilled. After several months in Detroit, they were again moved to Chicago, and from there to Cairo, Illinois. The Third Cavalry, then recruited to full strength, was transferred to Memphis, Tennessee, for patrol duty, before being ordered to actual engagement at DuVol's Bluff, Arkansas, on the White River.

After this engagement, they were sent to Brownsville, Arkansas, and from thence to New Orleans. From there the regiment, under General Phil Sheridan, was sent to the Mexican border. It was here that the men mutinied, and were finally





honorably discharged and ordered home.

On Washington's birthday, February 22nd, 1866, Morris Kent started back home to Michigan. He was travelling on horseback when he encountered a wagon train of Eastern people on their way to Leavenworth, Kansas. He decided to join their outfit and spent the next six months buying cattle in Kansas for shipment to Kansas City, Missouri.

Late in August of that year, 1866, Mr. Kent returned to Watson, Michigan, and resided there for about two years. About 1883 he was united in marriage to Miss Electra J. Gorton, a native of New York, who had moved to Allegan County with her parents, when she was a small child.

After a short time in Watson and following about two years as travelling salesman for a Northern Indiana firm Mr. and Mrs. Kent moved to Sturgis and he went into the grain business with C. B. Metzger under the firm name of Metzger and Kent. Later Mr. Metzger retired from the firm and Mr. Kent continued the business in Sturgis until about 1890, when he moved to Kalamazoo, where he established headquarters for a chain of elevators along the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad tracks. At one time Mr. Kent owned and operated grain elevators in Kalamazoo; LaGrange, Indiana; Huntertown and Howe,





Indiana, (Howe was then known as Lima). At one time the Morris Kent Company was the largest of its kind in this section of the country.

He retired from business twenty years before his death, which occurred May 18, 1933, at 431 West Water street, where he had resided for more than thirty-five years. He was in his 86th year and his death left but one survivor of Company C, Third Michigan Cavalry. He had served as Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic Post several times.

Mr. Kent's wife passed away three years prior to his death.







Jacob Kerston

J A C O B   K E R S T E N

( 1 8 8 2   -   1 9 3 8 )

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Jacob Kersten was born in New York City, March 2, 1882, the son of David and Anna (nee Good) who emigrated to this country from London, England.

When Jacob was two years old, the family moved westward, finally to settle in Denver, Colorado, where the elder Kersten carved a name for himself among the pioneers who developed that section. At the age of seven, Jacob's mother died and he was placed in a Jewish orphanage in Cleveland, Ohio, until he was ten at which time his father remarried and took Jacob to Chicago where he attended public school.

At the age of seventeen, Jacob engaged in the manufacture of dress forms used for window displays and by dress makers. He continued in that business until he was thirty-one years of age. He then moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and started the Inter-changeable Fixture Company, continuing to manufacture dress forms with an additional line of wax figures and similar kinds of window display fixtures, particularly those designed for the display of ladies wear.





Later Mr. Kersten organized the Kersten Manufacturing Company to make cabinet phonographs and a goose neck type of radio horn which he had invented. In 1922, he became General Manager of the Jewett Radio and Phonograph Company of Allegan, Michigan, which position he held until 1925, when he came to Kalamazoo as General Manager of the Borkman Radio Corporation in the old Grace Corset Company building on Eleanor Street. That Corporation sold out in 1927 and Mr. Kersten then organized the Kersten Radio Equipment Company, first locating on Eleanor Street and later moving to Fulford Street. At one time 385 people were employed in producing a large volume of horns and other radio equipment which was supplied to some of the country's largest manufacturers, earning a national reputation for the products. In 1929, Mr. Kersten's business and patents were purchased by a stock company and he devoted his time thereafter to travel and experimental work.

His inventive mind next interested itself in household and culinary items and problems. He is credited with many developments in this field. Among his many inventions is a pie tin designed to prevent the juices from running over into the oven or burning the edges of the pie crust. This product is a deep





pie tin having a channel border which acts as a receptacle for the juices which might bubble out of the pie. This channel also prevents the edge of the pie crust from burning. Many of these are still being sold. He later invented a baby vehicle having a soothing spring action and so designed as to provide exercise without confinement or restraint of the child's activities.

Mr. Kersten was noted for his careful personal appearance. He loved flowers and collected a great variety of different shrubs and trees. He also collected varied types of guns and fishing tackle as a personal hobby. He was interested in all mechanical products, but the radio was his particular hobby.

Mr. Kersten was a member of the American Protective League, an auxiliary of the Department of Justice of the United States. Politically, he was a very interested and active Republican. He was also a member of the Elks Lodge. Mr. Kersten was charitable, lending generous support to such organizations as the Cleveland home for orphans and St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church to which Mrs. Kersten belonged.

In 1917, Jacob Kersten married Irene Eunice Sullivan, the daughter of Bridget Breen and William Patrick Sullivan. His wife was born in Lafayette,



Indiana, later moving with her family to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she attended St. Andrew's school.

Death came to Mr. Kersten January 29, 1938. He is survived by brothers Michael, Samuel, Saul and Morris and sisters Bessie and Minnie. The funeral was conducted by Rabbi Herman Price and he now lies in peace at Mount Ever-Rest Cemetery.

Written July 8, 1938.















W I L L I A M   H E N R Y   K E S T E R

1 8 5 7   -   1 9 3 4

M A R Y   A N N   P E A K E   K E S T E R

1 8 5 8   -   1 9 2 9

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William Henry Kester was born in Richland township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, March 14, 1857, son of Henry Kester, who was born May 7, 1829, and died February 17, 1865, and Harriett Beers Kester, who was born March 6, 1833, and died September 10, 1863. Henry Kester was buried in Elbridge, New York, and his wife was buried in Richland, Michigan.

William Henry Kester spent his early life where he was born, but was left an orphan while still quite young and was taken to Syracuse, New York, to live with an aunt and uncle and remained with them until he reached the age of twenty-one.

He then returned to Richland and, shortly after, married Miss Mary Ann Peake of Richland and purchased a farm on the Gull road, M 43, about two miles south of the village. Mr. Kester was actively engaged in farming until 1918, at which time he moved into Richland, relinquishing his active work.

During the latter period of his life, Mr. Kes-





ter's faculty for making and keeping friends was given wider scope. His kindness and constant good humor afforded him a large and appreciative acquaintance, not only with those of his own generation, but with young people as well.

He was a lover of music and, although never having received any lessons, was a fine violinist. It is unfortunate that he never had the opportunity to develop his musical ability to the extent it merited. After an illness of short duration, Mr. Kester passed away November 11, 1934, at the age of seventy-seven.

Mrs. Kester

Mary Ann Peake was born in Richland, Michigan, January 25, 1858, daughter of Seneca Peake, who was born January 6, 1813, and Priscilla Kilborn, who was born June 18, 1825. According to a Mr. Van Schoten, who lived in Florida and gave the information to Royal Peake in Vermont, Captain William Peake came from London and landed in Nantucket, Rhode Island, and found his way overland to Vermont by means of marked trees. He was the son of William and Dorothy Peake, who were English Quakers. He was born March 24, 1740. He had a large family and one of his sons was Daniel, the father of Seneca Peake.





William Peake died February 19, 1813.

The Kilborn line of descent is as follows:

Thomas Kilborn was the common ancestor of all the Kilborns on this side of the Atlantic; he was born in the parish of Wood Dutton, Cambridge, England, A. D. 1578; he must have been a member of the Church of England as he was a Church Warden of his native parish in 1632; he married Francis and had eight children, namely, Margaret, Thomas, Elizabeth, George, Mary, Lydia, Francis and John; on the 15th of April 1635, he embarked with a portion of his family from London for New England in the ship "Increase", Robert Lee, master;

George Kilborn was baptized in Wood Dutton, England, February 12, 1612; he came to New England and was in Roxbury, Massachusetts, as early as 1638, when he was a member of the famous church of which Dr. Eliot was pastor; in 1640 he was admitted a freeman in Rowley, Massachusetts, where he seems to have spent the remainder of his days; he married Elizabeth and had six children, namely, Mary, Joseph, Jacob, Samuel, Isaac and Elizabeth;

Samuel Kilborn, born September 11, 1656, married M. Mary Foster and was the father of six, namely, Hannah, Samuel, David, Maria, Jedediah and Eliphalet; died April 22, 1722;

Jedediah Kilborn was born in Rowley, Massachusetts, April 20, 1699; married Susannah Fiske of Ipswich March 22, 1724, had a son Jedediah; died February 4, 1759;

Jedediah Kilborn was born in Rowley, Massachusetts, married M. Hannah Platts of that town November 4, 1749, removed to Roscawan, New Hampshire, thence to Henniker, where he died in 1820; he had eight children, namely, Nathan, Eliphalet,



Lucy, Mercy, Hannah, Jedediah, Nathaniel and Susan;

Jedediah Kilborn was born in 1762, settled in Newburyport, Massachusetts, where he followed the fishing business; he was three times married, namely, (1) to Elizabeth Glazier, the mother of Elizabeth and Nathan, December 12, 1793; (2) to Sally Coffin Downs, mother of John G., Jedediah and William Knapp, in 1804; (3) to Mary K. Pettengill, mother of Joseph and Benjamin C., December 12, 1814;

Benjamin C. Kilborn married and resided in Vermont for a few years and then removed to Ohio, where he died leaving four children, namely, George Perry, Nathaniel, Roxa and Priscilla.

Mary Ann Peake spent her childhood and young womanhood in or near Richland until at the age of twenty she married William Henry Kester and began housekeeping on the farm south of Richland. Mr. and Mrs. Kester were the parents of:

Hazel Priscilla, born July 11, 1883, who is a registered nurse and resides in Richland;

Fred Henry, born September 5, 1885, married Blanche Hudson December 29, 1909, is the father of Elinor Mae, born December 19, 1910; William Hudson, born April 26, 1914; and Dorothy Priscilla, born February 7, 1918.

Mrs. William Henry Kester united with the Presbyterian Church in Richland in early life and was a worker in all its activities as long as strength permitted.





Like her husband, Mrs. Kester, by virtue of her kindness and good humor, enjoyed a wide circle of friends to the end of her life. Her courage and strength of character were known and respected by all and, although the latter years of her life were marred by ill health, she refused to allow this to dampen her cheerful, kindly nature. She passed away June 4, 1929, at the age of seventy-one.

Excerpts from letters received by the daughter pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Kester as follows:

"To me yours was an ideal home. Your father and mother were so truly in love with each other and so happy. They were both so kind to me. . . .

"I love the memory of your father and mother. The romance of their early wedded life discounts any romance I have ever read."

Susan McLean Field

"Will and Mary Kester held to the high standards of pioneer life in their appreciation of the values to be found in education and in high moral integrity. In addition to providing educational opportunities for their children, they were themselves constantly alert to social, economic, and civic values to be found in a changing national life. They kept abreast of the times."

"As esteemed citizens of Richland, William H. Kester and Mary Peake Kester are held in revered remembrance by all who knew them when they served so well and faithfully as citizens of the Richland community."

Written in 1940





William Edgar Kidder



W I L L I A M   E D G A R   K I D D E R

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William Edgar Kidder was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 15, 1867, son of George F. and Elizabeth H. Kidder. George F. Kidder became one of Kalamazoo's well known merchants.

He Traveled Much

Following high school young Mr. Kidder traveled westward as a salesman and spent some time in the state of Wyoming. He estimated at one time that he had traveled at least a million miles. These trips were scattered over many years and took him twice around the world - once in the winter of 1925 and 1926 and again the following year. He paddled a canoe northward through the wilderness of Canada and sweated through the jungles of Africa.

Characteristically, on one of his trips around the world, he took 7,000 balloons with him and gave them to native children in the different lands he and his wife visited.

He Enjoyed Outdoor Sports

He devoted much of his leisure time to outdoor





sports of which he was very fond, especially fishing. Mr. Kidder was an expert trout fisherman. A writer for the Kalamazoo Gazette once said of him:

"He has more actual fish stories up his sleeve that are true than any other angler in the city."

#### He Became An Amateur Photographer

His interest in fishing led him to new and faraway places and to catching views as well as fish. He accumulated a library of interesting sport and travel motion pictures and was a director of the Amateur Cinema League of New York City.

Mr. Kidder was a pioneer in trick cinematography and his films were enlivened by some of the cine tricks which later were universally used.

At one time unreasonable tariff restrictions were placed upon amateur filming and Mr. Kidder carried a case of tariff imposition to the highest court and secured a favorable decision which formed the basis of a request to Congress by the Amateur Cinema League of New York City and Congress took favorable action.

#### He Cultivated Rare Nut Trees

Willaim Kidder was no parlor farmer. He did





things with tree culture that would make many a professional horticulturist proud. He cultivated rare nut-bearing trees and in his orchard he grew successfully a Japanese walnut tree, English walnut trees, black walnut trees, Jordan almonds, soft and hard pecans, and others.

#### He Was A Successful Business Man

It seems hard to believe that William Kidder could do all these things so well and still have time for business. But he did.

On February 14, 1894, he went to work at the Kalamazoo Sled Company. Travel held a fascination for him, but not wanderlust. He settled down and worked his way to the top in business, making an exciting adventure out of what might have been dull, daily routine.

In 1918 he was made president of the sled company, which besides manufacturing winter snow sleds also makes summer furniture and camping outfits. He continued as president until the day of his death.

His business interests were as varied and as well attended as his avocations. Among the corporations in which he was a director are the



Bryant Paper Company, Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company, Mac Sim Bar Company, Midwest Refining Company, Home Savings Bank, Allied Paper Mills, Plainwell Canning Company, Security Metal Products Company, and, of course, the Kalamazoo Sled Company.

He Belonged To A Number Of Organizations

William Kidder joined the Rotary club in 1919, shortly after it was organized in Kalamazoo, and later he was made an honorary member. He had been a trustee of the Lake Farm Home for Boys, a charter member of the Park club, and a member of an Illinois Athletic club.

He Died March 3, 1941

He had been in poor health for some time and became a patient in Bronson Hospital February 16, 1941, but had been actively at work the day before that, in fact until that day.

He Was Highly Regarded

In announcing his death the Kalamazoo Gazette said of him:

"William Kidder, who crammed more living into his nearly 74 years than most men in 174, is dead."

"William Kidder leaves behind him many vacancies. Some, such as the directorships





he held in several local enterprises and associations, will be filled. Many others, like his place in the hearts of his fellow workers and business associates, the Boy Scouts and Lake Farm youths whom he served for years, and outdoors people who liked to hear him tell of adventures in faraway places - these vacancies are not likely to be easily filled."

The following is an extract from the publication of the Amateur Cinema League, Inc.:

"The staff of the League will greatly miss the frequent letters of encouragement from Mr. Kidder. He followed League matters carefully and was quick to indicate his approval of results obtained. He was a loyal and intelligent counsellor, and his occasional visits to New York always were a pleasure to the headquarters group."

"Because he was a director in several paper manufacturing companies, his advice was of continual value to this magazine in the choice of print paper."

The funeral service was conducted from the Cady funeral home by the Reverend A. Gordon Fowkes, pastor of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church and burial was in Mountain Home cemetery.

He was survived by his widow, Charlotte G. Kidder, 468 West South street, Kalamazoo, and by his only son, W. Kent Kidder, technical director at the Bryant Paper Company; three grandchildren, William Loomis Kidder, Ruth Anne Kidder, and Lawrence Edgar Kidder; and a cousin, Mrs. Horace J. Fuller.





Charles Kindleberger



C H A R L E S   K I N D L E B E R G E R

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Charles Kindleberger was born in West Carrollton, Ohio, March 2, 1885, the only child of John and Otilda Froelich Kindleberger to be born in the United States of America. The other children were born in Germany and were Mary, Rose, Lena, Otilda, Jacob and John.

Charles Kindleberger was educated in West Carrollton, after which he went to work in a paper mill in that city operated by the Miami Paper Tablet Company. He went from there to the Parchment Mill in West Carrollton and was employed there when he was married to Estella Louise Leever October 4, 1906. She was born in Edenton, Ohio, October 14, 1888, daughter of William and Belle Doughman Leever, both natives of Ohio. William Leever was born September 20, 1851 and Belle Doughman was born April 14, 1852.

Began Housekeeping

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kindleberger began housekeeping in West Carrollton, Ohio, and lived there until 1916, where three children were born:



## CHARLES KINDLEBARGER

1852 - 1942

-2-

Charles Kindlebarger was born in West Carroll, Ohio, March 8, 1852, the only child of John and Elaine French Kindlebarger. He is now in the United States of America. The other children were born in Germany and were Mary, Susan, Anna, and John.

Charles Kindlebarger was educated in West Carroll, after which he went to work in a paper mill in that city operated by the West Paper Tables Company. He went from there to the Westwood Mill in West Carroll and was employed there when he was married to Sarah Louise Lester October 4, 1882. She was born in Jackson, Ohio, October 12, 1858, daughter of William and Belle Doughman Lester, both natives of Ohio. William Lester was born September 20, 1831 and Belle Doughman was born April 14, 1832.

### Family Descendants

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kindlebarger began housekeeping in West Carroll, Ohio, and lived there until 1916, when they moved to West Carroll.

Charles William, born June 22, 1907, married Margie Peterson, who was born May 21, 1906, and they became the parents of Charles Arnold, born [redacted], Lois Marguerite, born February 25, 1935- the date of their marriage was May 9, 1928 and they reside at the time of this writing in 1943 in Parchment, Mich;

Georgia, born in January, 1906, married Arthur Munger October 31, 1930, and they became the parents of Robert Charles, born October 5, 1931, Wilma, born October 15, 1932, and Barbara Estella, born [redacted]; and

Harold, born March 5, 1913, married Pauline Van Stelle May 23, 1936, and they became the parents of Suzanne Jane, born [redacted] and Harold Paul, born October 31, 1940, and reside in Parchment, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kindleberger, senior, came to Kalamazoo with their family of children June 5, 1916, and found a place to live on Riverview drive in Parchment. For twenty-seven years they have lived in the same block, during which time he was employed by the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company, much of the time as Night Superintendent.

He died Friday morning, September 3, 1943. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Victor W. Thrall, D. D., the pastor of the Parchment Community Methodist Church and burial was in the family lot in Riverside cemetery. Employees of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company were pall bearers.

Charles Kindleberger, Senior, was a member of





the Lutheran church, Fidelity Masonic lodge, and an honorary member of the Starr Commonwealth.

#### Personal Appearance

In personal appearance, Mr. Kindleberger was of medium height, stockily built, with white hair and quite young appearing brown eyes.

He enjoyed travel for the sake of an objective he would select and enjoyed camping along the bank of a lake or stream. He was interested in the out-of-doors. He played base ball in his younger years and greatly enjoyed attending whenever he could in later years. He liked tools and machinery and was handy with them.

Mr. Kindleberger was humorous, had kindly, twinkling eyes and hosts of friends. He was companionable and most considerate of the men who worked with him. He was a man who wanted to be neighborly and live at peace with his community. He took great delight in children and his home. He was also a member of the Oddfellows.

He joined the Lutheran Church in Miamisburg, Ohio, with the girl who, a little later, became his wife. He supported the church with his attendance and his gifts and his daily life was consistent with the vows he took at the altars of his church. He was honest, trustworthy and brotherly in his relations



with others, eager in his zest for living, loving his companion, his children and his grandchildren with all his heart.

Charles Kindleberger walked humbly, yet proudly, day by day toward the goal he had set to be a good homemaker, a good citizen and a faithful follower of his Lord.





Jacob Kindabergen



*Kindleberger*



J A C O B   K I N D L E B E R G E R

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Among the laymen of the Methodist Church Jacob Kindleberger is an unobtrusive but an outstanding leader. He is one of the men whose loyalty and integrity make the church a power in the nation. He is not satisfied with the church as it is and is deeply concerned that it should keep pace and lead all other organizations in making this a better world in which to live. He is widely known in the world of business and his radiant Christian spirit is a revelation of the meaning of a Christian business man. His passion is to apply the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ in his business and to make the church more effective in its work.

The birth of this passion occurred when he was fifteen years of age. He was working in a paper mill in West Carrollton, Ohio, where a Methodist minister was conducting a revival meeting in his church, and there was some joking in the town about the meetings. "Let's go and have a good laugh," suggested one of the boys at the mill. "So that night we went to 'have a good laugh' at the preacher. But he didn't talk as



we had expected. He didn't damn all sinners to fire and perdition. Instead, he talked quietly and sanely on the future. It was a new word to me. I hardly knew its meaning. I listened. It seemed to me that the future, the to-morrows, which we were to enjoy or to suffer, depended on us, and on what we did with the present. The minister's eyes actually seemed to meet mine. 'What are you doing?' he asked, 'toward your future? Are you living each day like every other, like a squirrel in a wheel, or are you trying to get out of the wheel? A year from now, are you going to be better off than you are at this moment? What about ten, twenty years from now? Will you be any happier, or any bigger, or will the world be any better for your having lived in it? No person can answer that but yourself, and your answer lies in what you do with your to-days!'"

"They sang something. For the first time in my life I was thinking. I was beginning to realize a vague discontent with my lot; and the feeling grew. The minister invited those to come forward who wished to have the church help them, and I went. And almost from that night, a new and better world began to open for me. I saw above my environment!"

"I met new people. They professed an interest





in me, in my welfare, in my future! Nobody had had the slightest interest before. The owner of the mill where I worked at thirty cents a day was a member of the church. I had regarded him as a god who lived in another world. Even he shook my hand, called me by name, inquired about my plans."

"'Are you really serious in this?' he asked.

"I assured him that I was."

"'Then tie up with this church,' he said. 'Be active, help, and the church will help you.'

"I didn't appreciate then the intent and the wisdom of that advice. What he had in mind was that, by becoming active in the church work, I would become an associate of good people and have little time to spare for the mill crowd. He saw my first need - new associations. With them, the rest would follow. And it did. My new friends were educated. Even the boys I met in Sunday school, half my age, could read and write. I became filled with a desire to meet them on an equal footing. Above all, I didn't want to be pitied.

"My eyes had not improved. I could distinguish one printed word from another only by putting my face right into a book and then with difficulty. But suddenly this handicap seemed small in contrast with





what I now saw was a greater one - my lack of education. I would have given my right arm just to have been able to read the words of the hymnal!"

"My lack of early education was a blessing in disguise, because the fight to get an education was such a tough one that my other battles seemed easy when they did come. I doubt very much if I could have had the stamina to stick to the task of founding this mill if I hadn't won an even harder fight as a boy, trying to cram eight years of school into four."

Jacob Kindleberger was born in Raumbach, Germany, near the border, on February 27, 1875, of pure German descent. His father came with his wife and family to the United States in 1880 and made their home in Ohio. He worked in paper mills in West Carrollton, Ohio.

Jacob Kindleberger began work in a paper mill in West Carrollton owned by the George H. Friend Company, when he was ten years of age. "My duty was to shake the feathers out of 'ticks,' dissect the women's bustles of that time - digging out the steel ribs and parts other than cloth, and cutting buttons off trousers. Yes, sir, I could take the buttons off from a pair of trousers so fast it would make you blink. You see, paper was made almost exclusively from rags in those days, and that didn't include



buttons."

At the age of thirteen he had been promoted to a paper making machine and two years later he was doing a man's work back-tending on a paper machine.

His struggle for an education was intense. "I had no books, nobody to teach me, not even a primary grade schooling. I couldn't start school because my earnings were needed at home; and, besides, I was sensitive. It hurt to be laughed at - it does until you become used to it; and perhaps I don't need to tell you that I was laughed at. First, I had been 'bit by religion,' as they said, which was somewhat of a joke in the paper mill; second, I was a gawk of a boy, near-sighted, uncouth, yet with the fool notion in my head that some day I might amount to something more than I was. Small wonder some folks laughed.

"However, they didn't all laugh. The folks at church didn't. A boy a little older than I offered to help me. He still had his old primary grade books, which he loaned me. He outlined lessons for me, explained what I couldn't understand, heard my recitations, and with no end of patience aided me to get started. My Sunday school teacher helped. She told me how some of the old Bible heroes had suffered for





an ideal, undergone persecution and even death for their convictions. One Sunday she gave me a Bible of my own, and I began to puzzle over its stories. In it, I found inspiration to go on. I saved what I could and bought other books. If my awakening needed any final touch the story of Lincoln supplied it."

For six years he studied, almost unaided. The one heated room in the house was the kitchen, and there nightly the whole family gathered. A kerosene lamp furnished the light. The younger children scampered and played noisily; the mother patched and darned; the father smoked and dozed by the stove; and "Jake" struggled on with his lessons. After ten P.M. he had the kitchen to himself - that is until his mother thumped on the floor above and insisted that he "put those books away and come to bed." Usually this was well past midnight, and even later when, at nineteen, he got his first pair of glasses.

"I had no idea what I had been missing until I got those glasses. They literally changed earth into heaven! I hadn't dreamed the earth could be so beautiful. For days I went about in a daze of wonder, just looking and discovering new beauties. Then it was, I think, there came upon me my first concrete ambition - to preach, to tell others how good and





fine God had made the world. I wanted to be a minister. You see the church and God had come to mean a lot to me. My best friends, those who had encouraged me when I most needed it, were believers and members of the church. From them had come the inspiration which had lifted me - well, almost from the gutter. I had contracted a big debt to the church and to God, which I wanted in some small measure to pay.

"A chance came to become janitor at the local school at twenty dollars a month - less than I was making at the mill. I seized it eagerly when they told me I might attend classes when not at work. They also appointed me truant officer, and I qualified for the fourth grade. I was twenty-one years old then. My classmates were little more than half of that. It wasn't easy to sit down among them; but the teachers all helped - there hasn't been a time since I got going when I haven't had the help of somebody. They coached me after hours and let me go ahead as rapidly as I could. In four years I was able to enter Ohio Wesleyan University.

"I had to pay my own way, of course. Also, matters weren't going well at home. It fell upon me to support my mother and little brother. I had no



knowledge of salesmanship, but a friend advised me to try my hand at it. Paper was something I knew, so I began by selling that. Then I added to my line, books, hat racks, steam cookers, and other household articles. I worked after classes, on Saturdays, and during vacations. Soon I was making more money than I had ever before made in my life.

"I told you a little while ago that my eye weakness turned out in the end to be a blessing. It has. In college I trained myself to use all of the vision I had.

"In psychology class one day a Professor Duval made the statement that most of us don't see a tenth of what is about us; that is, to the extent of remembering details. He went on to prove his statement. Outside of the building was a flight of stone steps, over which every one of us passed a dozen times daily. A very common variety of tree stood near by. Not a student knew the number of steps in the flight nor the name of the tree. The professor put a dozen other questions to test our observation, and on virtually every one the class 'fell down.'

"To most of the students, the talk was 'just another lecture.' But to me - vitally interested in seeing - it was a revelation. In a flash it came to





me that by persistence I could train my poor eyes to see better than most folks' good eyes. I picked up the first object at hand and looked at it, really looked at it intelligently - to use the professor's term - for the first time. In ten minutes I had noted an outline of facts about it sufficient to constitute a lengthy essay. I kept doing this, constantly, week after week, until I had formed a habit of looking for things others didn't notice. Later, this habit became of incalculable value to me in business."

Mr. Kindleberger's experience in Ohio Wesleyan University was very trying. His preparatory work had been most haphazard and the necessity of earning his way took hours which otherwise might have been devoted to study. This meant that time needed for sleep was spent on his books. For four or five months he simply "hung on," as he put it, afraid that he would be dropped and that all of his work would be lost. Then, when he had gained a foothold and his college work was improving, he found that his eyes weren't equal to the constant strain.

One day, in Mr. Kindleberger's third year, the printed page went blank to him. He rested his eyes and tried again, but he could continue reading only





for a brief time. He suspected the true state of affairs, but he didn't know for sure until he had consulted a doctor. The doctor warned him that if he continued in college he would go blind.

"And if I quit college?" Mr. Kindleberger asked.

"Then your eyes will have a chance to recover," said the oculist.

Mr. Kindleberger quit college. That meant he had to give up all hope of ever entering the ministry!

He continued to work as a salesman. He said, "I had been doing well in my selling. It had seemed to come to me naturally, and I had customers in a dozen towns about. I was specializing in steam cookers at the time, and one afternoon a shipment came in. When unloaded from the train the cookers took up the whole station platform.

"My old employer of the West Carrollton paper mill happened that afternoon to be at the station. He eyed first me and then the cookers."

"'You mean to tell me that you've sold all of these?' he finally asked.

"'Every last one is sold,' I said.

"'See here, young man,' he exclaimed, 'anyone who can sell these things can sell paper. I'd like



you to come and work for me again, this time as a salesman. I'll pay you fifteen dollars a week.'

"I kept a straight face. My old employer didn't know it, but I was actually making one hundred dollars a week selling those cookers! But I considered his offer. There was a future in the paper industry; there was none in the work I was doing.

"What territory will you give me?' I asked.

"The whole of the United States, Canada and Mexico,' he replied.

"I took the job without another word."

He did not tell his employer what he had made selling cookers. He said, "He made me a good offer for a beginner. It was all I was worth to him as an untried man. If I were worth more, he would soon see it and pay more, I felt, because I had confidence in his fairness. I'm a little peculiar in that respect. I've always believed that anyone taking a new job should prove his worth in that job, and let performance determine his earnings. I knew that I could sell steam cookers, but I had yet to demonstrate that I could sell paper to business houses.

"Before coming to Kalamazoo to undertake the task of forming this company, I was earning more than five hundred dollars a month as a paper salesman.





The new company here offered me a certain salary - not as much as I had been making - but still much more than I felt it should pay. You see, it wasn't at all certain the new company would be a success. I set my own salary at one hundred dollars a month, and declined to take more until I had proved my right to it."

Thirteen years intervened from the selling of cookers to the coming to Kalamazoo. As salesman for the West Carrollton paper mill he visited every important city in the United States and Canada. He made friends in the paper industry, and became one of its best-known "road men." And he had married a West Carrollton girl.

At times Mr. Kindleberger wondered if he were on the right track, if there really was in the paper business the future which he had envisioned. He was progressing; but he debated getting into something different. An old storekeeper in West Carrollton called "Uncle Jim" advised him, "'It won't get you anything, Jake, to go jumping about like a grasshopper. The chaps who've done things in this world have picked a road and kept traveling. Pretty soon it took 'em where they wanted to go.'

"So I stuck to paper, and lived to learn that





old Uncle Jim's advice was sound. You don't gain by jumping around 'like a grasshopper.' You lose ground every time you make a fresh start. The road you know best is the one you should cling to, and keep going. Every road ever built leads eventually to a town."

He explained his coming to Kalamazoo by saying, "One of my sisters had married and moved here and her husband also was in the paper business. He wrote me that he believed there was an opening for a new mill in the field. I hadn't thought of the possibility before; in fact, I had thought that the field was already overcrowded. But when that letter came, I jumped at the idea.

"My old employer had left. A new group was in charge, and this fact speeded my decision. My brother-in-law's letter arrived on Saturday. By Monday I was on my way to Kalamazoo. However, I had carefully considered the move. I knew the paper business and I knew the trade. I concluded there was room for a new mill, provided it made a brand of paper that was not only good but exceptionally good. I was confident that I could make such paper.

"My brother-in-law knew Kalamazoo, and together we drew up a list of local men to interest, for we



needed capital. By this time I was enthusiastic. I drew up a plan which I believed in, heart and soul, and I 'sold' that plan to the first man I talked to. He pledged \$10,000 and a site for the mill two miles outside of town on the Kalamazoo River. About two dozen other local men then came in, and with a capital of \$50,000 we started to build."

Fifty thousand dollars is a very small amount for a paper mill and only one small cheap machine could be installed. The foundations of an abandoned beet-sugar factory were used in the building of the mill, and the entire pay roll at the start contained less than a dozen names. The mill was located in the open country on a site little better than a swamp. Neighboring farmers were hostile. Only a dirt road - shoe-top deep with mud in spring and autumn, dusty in summer, snow-bound in winter - connected the mill with Kalamazoo. The first experienced paper workers were brought from West Carrollton. They were old schoolmates of Mr. Kindleberger. As there were no houses near the mill and the men could not afford to rent houses in the town, they put up tents, cooked their own meals and lived that way for two years. One winter there were three and one-half feet of snow and the temperature went as low as





thirty-five degrees below zero, and it hung around zero for many days.

One of the men working with Mr. Kindleberger said, "We were offered jobs at more money, but" - he shrugged his shoulders - "Mr. Kindleberger needed us. He wasn't quitting, though he was getting only twenty-five dollars a week and had left a job paying five times that! He shoveled coal in the boiler room to help out, so we could save the wages of an extra man. Far into the night we'd see his light burning over in that old farm-house where he lived, and he'd be the first to work in the morning. No, he wasn't quitting, and we weren't either!"

One day, when it seemed that the life of the company could be prolonged only a few days more at the best, another paper manufacturer halted Mr. Kindleberger on the street.

"What are you fellows trying to do out there in the snow?" he inquired.

"Build a paper mill," replied Mr. Kindleberger.

The other smiled, half pityingly. "Do you realize," he remarked, "that even old, tried concerns are fighting tooth and nail for business? The field is jammed. A new mill hasn't a chance.

"We'll make a chance," Mr. Kindleberger retorted.





"And we know all about the fight for business; we're in the middle of it."

At this time his financial resources were so limited that he bought no Pullman tickets when he travelled on a train and to save money when on the road as the company's only salesman he stopped at third rate hotels and ate at the cheapest restaurants.

He had had so many fights that this mill fight was just another. He said, "I went ahead, knowing there was a way out somewhere - there always is! No matter how tight the corner there is usually a knot-hole in it; and I kept looking for that knot-hole. A very trivial conversation overheard on a trolley car gave me the needed hint. It was housecleaning season. Two women were talking.

"'I'm going down town," said one, 'to buy me some shelf paper.'

"'Well, you know,' said the other, 'I never buy this paper they sell you for shelves. It isn't made for shelves, and it's either too narrow or too wide. You end up by buying the kind that is too wide and cut it down to size. That means a lot of waste. Before I'll pay for paper I must waste I'll cover my shelves with newspapers.'

"'Now, wouldn't you think,' agreed the first

"And we know all about the little for nothing, after

in the matter of it."

At this time the financial conditions were at the

lowest point in history of British history, when the govern-

ment had to pay a large sum of money when the year

as the government's only resource in the matter of it.

These people will not be the strongest of the nation.

It was not until the year 1891 that this was the case.

was the result. At this, it was already, however,

quite low, and the government - the government, the

government, the government, the government, the government,

this is it; and I have known for that time.

A very different conception of the world as a whole

has been in the world since. It is the government

which, the government, the government.

"It's going down now," said one, "the day is

now, well, yes."

"Well, you know," said the other, "I never say

this before, but I say for nothing. It is the same

the government, and it's either the government or the same.

You see it is going down now, that is the same

and it is the same. That is the same, that is the same.

And so it is, that is the same, that is the same, that is the same.

And so it is, that is the same, that is the same, that is the same.

"Now, you know," said the other, "I never say

woman, 'that somebody would make shelf paper just for that purpose? Every cupboard and shelf there is needs paper, and yet you can't buy it anywhere.'

"Madam,' I said to myself, 'it won't be very long before you will be able to buy shelf paper everywhere, for we are going to make it for you.'

"It was a brand new market, untouched. I went back to the mill and we started to make shelf paper. It sold at once!

"From that idea, we got others along the line of making paper in forms suitable for home use. For instance, we made a paper to be used as a covering for ice in summer, and another useful in the care of babies. We made up a household package of various kinds of papers, and enumerated all the common uses we could think of for each. There was almost no competition and these novelties marketed readily. The income they brought in tided us over until the main products of the mill began to sell in quantity.

When success did come, it came speedily. We improved our machinery and enlarged our capacity. We built houses about the mill in which our people could live. We obtained a good school for our children." Parchment is the result. "Its streets are





paved; it has its church, playgrounds, community house, and in all a population of about one thousand five hundred inhabitants. We did have a policeman, but he had nothing to do, so we let him go. We have no police force, and need none."

When Mr. Kindleberger laid the first brick of his mill, out there in what was swamp and open country, he also founded a Sunday-school. The first session was held in the parlor of the old farmhouse. A scant half-dozen folks attended. Mr. Kindleberger himself acted as teacher. Since then he has fathered the Sunday school and also the church which grew out of it. He has taught the Bible class for many years and nearly every year gives a special course in Bible study at the mid-week meeting.

The Methodist Church takes pleasure in counting Mr. Kindleberger as one of its outstanding laymen, one who wanted to be a minister but when he found that to be impracticable turned to business with the conviction that he had been ordained to serve His Lord in that field and through his consecrated efforts and the efforts of those with whom he has worked, has built an \$11,000,000.00 annual business and a plant valued at about the same figure, surrounded with residences of comfort and beauty, with stores and





business places to serve the people of Parchment.  
He has sought first the kingdom of God and all this  
has been added.



Garth William King





G A R T H   W I L L I A M   K I N G

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Private First Class Garth William King was killed in action on Perry Island of the Marshalls in the South Pacific February 22, 1944. His serial number was 339124 and his body was buried in Grave 182, Row 6, Plot I, in a Temporary American Cemetery in the Marshall Islands.

Garth enlisted in the United States Marines in December 1941 and left Kalamazoo, Michigan, December 26th, just before his eighteenth birthday. He received his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, and then went to Providence, Rhode Island, where he remained for almost two years. He then had a ten day furlough and when he returned he was sent overseas May 7, 1943, to Samoa in the South Pacific, where he was stationed for several months and was then sent to Pearl Harbor. Later he was in combat in the Marshall Islands where he made the supreme sacrifice.

Birth and Education

Garth was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, at 1:15 A. M., January 1, 1924, and was proclaimed the





"New Year's Baby" of 1924. Following a custom instituted by Kalamazoo merchants in the early 1920s a record is kept of the baby born first after midnight of the New Year. Many beautiful gifts were received by Mrs. King, both for herself and her new son.

Garth's father was William James King, who was born in Coleman, Wisconsin, June 17, 1896, of German and French ancestry. He grew to young manhood in Wisconsin and came to Kalamazoo when he was nineteen years of age and was employed by the Michigan Central Railroad Company.

Garth's mother was Frances Brown King, who was born in Whitesburg, Kentucky, and came to Kalamazoo at the age of eighteen.

Mr. and Mrs. William King were married February 3, 1916, and became the parents also of:

Frances Marie, born March 25, 1917, married Reuben Foster and they became the parents of Thomas February 14, 1938; this marriage was dissolved and later she married Jacob Farver and they reside in Toledo, Ohio; and

Dorothy Genevieve, born June 22, 1920, married Lester Lamkin and they reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

When Garth was small the family lived on the east side of Kalamazoo and he attended the Roosevelt School through the early grades. Later the family moved to Oakwood and Garth attended school there. When the family moved to 1346 North



Rose street in Kalamazoo where they now reside in 1946, Garth went to the Lincoln School and later entered Central High School. He earned money to help with expenses by working for the Western Union Telegraph Company after school and during summer vacations.

#### Marriage

September 15, 1942, he was married to his childhood sweetheart, Anna Vera Welch, with whom he attended Sunday school and worship services at the Oakwood Undenominational Church from the time they were little children. The wedding took place at the Naval operating base at Newport, Rhode Island, the Reverend Harold St. George Burrell, of the Emmanuel Church, officiating.

Anna was a daughter of Henry and Anna Anderson Welch and was a graduate of Central High School. Garth and Anna became the parents of Garth William November 17, 1943.

#### Personal Characteristics

Garth was five feet eleven inches tall and had dark wavy hair and black eyes.

He enjoyed roller skating, bicycling and listening to his radio. He liked to travel and enjoyed driving the family automobile.

He was prepossessing in his appearance, erect





in carriage, and was every inch a soldier as he had always wanted to be.

His life was centered in the Oakwood Church of which he was a member. He was baptized in infancy and faithfully attended the Sunday school and worship services. Reared in a Christian home, this fine young boy found his greatest enjoyment in Church activities. He belonged to the Sunday school class taught by Mr. Cornelius De Smit, who had a wonderful influence over this boy and the other young men in the class.

Garth loved his home, was devoted to his wife and his sisters, was a pal with his father and enjoyed a rare comradeship with his understanding mother. He exemplified the highest type of Christian young manhood.

Garth was industrious and honorable. He loved everybody, his heart was full of kindness. He went out fully prepared and willing, if need be, to lay down his life.

All honor to Garth William King, citizen of the United States and now a citizen of Heaven!







*Lee B. ...*

John King

J O H N   F R A N C I S   K I N G

-o-

John Francis King was born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania in 1859.

With his parents John King moved to Virginia and later to Connecticut. His first experience with the paper industry was in Holyoke, Massachusetts and it was in that city he married Alice Bryant.

The young couple moved to Appleton, Wisconsin where Mr. King was identified with the George R. Patton Paper Company.

In 1885 Mr. King came to Kalamazoo and accepted a position as machine tender under Noah Bryant, then superintendent of the Kalamazoo Paper Company.

In 1888 Mr. King left the Kalamazoo Paper Company and accompanied George E. Bardeen and Noah Bryant to Otsego where the Bardeen Paper Company had its first mill in the course of construction. John King was promoted to the position of superintendent of that plant when Mr. Bryant resigned.

In the 1890's initial steps were taken looking toward the organization of the Bryant Paper Company. Mr. Charles B. Hays, active in the development of the South Side Improvement Company, approached Mr.





Bryant, Mr. John King and Mr. Frank H. Milham and sought to influence them to become associated with the enterprise. Messrs. Bryant and Milham had about decided to abandon paper making and buy a flour mill and feed store. Mr. King, however, was interested in paper making and being venturesome determined to link his future with the industry. He talked insistently of the prospects of success. The results are well known to Kalamazoo citizens. The Bryant Paper Mill was built and became one of the factors in the development of the paper industry in this section. Mr. King was General Superintendent of the plant and continued with the company until 1902.

Mr. King then became prime mover in the organization of the King Paper Company and the erection of a one machine mill. He saw that company develop into a concern with well over a million of capital, with four paper machines and a modern coating plant. During that period Mr. King held the position of Vice President of the company and was General Production Manager.

In 1915 Mr. King took another forward step. He resigned from the King Paper Company and organized the Rex Paper Company, of which he was President and majority stockholder. Fabulous tales have been told of the success of that plant. This much is at





least true. The Rex Paper Company ran in both flush and bad times.

Mr. King was a paper maker of the old school, having learned the business through long years of experience. He started among the army of workers and ended his career as head of his own company.

He gained fame as a production man and as an executive and held patents on many devices that have been factors in greatly improving paper-making machinery and methods.

Mr. King was a business man and always a cultured courtly gentleman, always striving to bring into his work high ideals of service to his fellow man.

A writer in the Atlantic Monthly wrote the following:

"The spiritual side of the manufacturing business in Kalamazoo is well exemplified in the Rex Paper Company. Talks with forty per cent of the workers of this mill show that a sense of loyalty exists among men and management, and almost of reverence for the founder. The company aims to pay a little more per hour in wages than is current. . . . .

"One of the oldest paper-makers in this valley said: 'John F. King was a practical chemist and he acquired and understood a knowledge of paper-making that at times seemed intuitive. Never interested in money-making, he spent his time in inventing machinery, improving and improvising a galaxy of by far the most useful forces in this craft.'"

John F. King died March 13, 1922.





THIS INDENTURE made the twenty ninth Day of October in the fifty second Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith; and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and twelve between Joseph Bryant, Son of Sarah Bryant of the Parish of Chepping Wycombe in the County of Bucks Widow of the first Part; the said Sarah Bryant of the second Part; and William Howard of the Parish of Wooburn in the said County of Bucks, Papermaker of the third Part; Witnesseth that the said Joseph Bryant of his own free Will, and the Consent and Approbation of the said Sarah Bryant (testified by her being a Party to, and executing these presents,) Hath put, placed, and bound, and by these Presents Doth put, place, and bind himself Apprentice to the said William Howard to learn his Trade, Art, and Mystery, and with him after the manner of an Apprentice, to serve for, during, and unto the full End and Term of six Years, fully to be complete and ended, to be computed from the day of the date hereof And the said Joseph Bryant doth hereby covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said William Howard in Manner following, (that is to say,) That during all the said Term, he the said Apprentice his said Master faithfully and obediently shall and will serve; his secrets keep; his lawful Commands every where gladly do; he shall do no Damage to his said Master nor willingly or knowingly permit or suffer it to be done by others, but to his power shall prevent the same, or forthwith give Warning thereof to his said Master. The Goods, Monies, or other Property of his said Master he shall neither waste, nor embezzle, nor lend unlawfully to any; Matrimony he shall not contract; at any unlawful Games he shall not play; with his own Goods or Monies, or those of any other Person, without license of his said Master he shall neither





buy nor sell; Inns and Akehouses he shall not haunt; nor absent himself from his said Master's service Day or Night unlawfully, or without the License or Permission of his said Master but in all things as a faithful and obedient Apprentice, he shall behave and conduct himself towards his said Master and all his during all the said Term. And this Indenture also witnesseth That in consideration of such Service by the said Joseph Bryant the said Apprentice, to be duly and faithfully performed in manner aforesaid; the said William Howard doth by these Presents covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said Joseph Bryant and also to and with the said Sarah Bryant her Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, That he the said William Howard, said Joseph Bryant his said Apprentice in the Trade, Art, Mystery, and Occupation of a Papermaker which he the said William Howard now useth by the best Means that he can, shall and will teach and instruct, or cause to be taught and instructed, and shall and will allow pay unto and for said Apprentice the following weekly allowances (that is to say) for the first year seven Shillings weekly; the second and third years eight Shillings weekly; the fourth year nine Shillings weekly; and the fifth year of the said Term ten Shillings weekly; and the last year eleven Shillings weekly; and forty Shillings annually for clothes and all over work according to the custom of the Mill during all the said Term. And the said Sarah Bryant for herself, her Executors and Administrators, do by these Presents covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said William Howard his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, that she the said Sarah Bryant her Executors and Administrators, shall and will find and provide for the said Apprentice sufficient Meat, Drink, Washing, Lodging, Surgeon and Apothecary and all other Necessaries whatsoever.

(except as aforesaid,) during all the said Term. And for the true Performance of all and every the Covenants and





Agreements herein-before contains, each and every of the said Parties bindeth himself, herself and themselves unto the other and others of them, firmly by these Presents. IN WITNESS whereof they, the said Parties, have hereunto set their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year first above-written.





Bachrach



Merrill King

## M E R R I L L   B R Y A N T   K I N G

Merrill Bryant King, son of John Francis and Alice Bryant King, was born in Otsego, Michigan, May 21, 1890. He attended school in Otsego, and also in Kalamazoo, when he moved with his parents to the latter city. He was graduated from Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, Illinois.

On September 10, 1919, Merrill King was married to Miss Helen R. Ralston. To this marriage were born three children: Alice Patricia,                   ; John Ralston, October 13, 1921; and Mary Marilyn, August 9, 1924.

In association with his father, who built the King Paper Mill and later the Rex Paper Mill and was President of the latter until his death, Merrill King became first the purchasing agent and later Vice President. Following the death of his father in 1922, Merrill King became President and General Manager of the Rex Paper Company.

Merrill King was interested in and assisted the Lake Farm and Pretty Lake Vacation Camp. He was a member of the Park Club and also the Gull Lake Country Club. He enjoyed duck hunting and





polo. When a young man he sang in the choir of  
St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church.

Mr. King had one sister, Dorothy, who married  
Harry H. Creamer of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

March 2, 1933, Merrill King died in an accident.  
The Reverend Tyson Jones, D. D., who performed the  
marriage ceremony, spoke the final words at the  
grave and Dr. John W. Dunning gave the memorial  
message.

"There is no death! the stars go down  
To rise upon some other shore,  
And bright in heaven's jewelled crown  
They shine forevermore.

There is no death! the forest leaves  
Convert to life the viewless air;  
The rocks disorganize to feed  
The hungry moss they bear.

There is no death! the dust we tread  
Shall change, beneath the summer showers,  
To golden grain, or mellow fruit,  
Or rainbow-tinted flowers.

And ever near us though unseen,  
The dear immortal spirits tread,  
For all the boundless universe  
Is life - 'there are no dead.'"

Edward Bulwer-Lytton



Paul Beryle King





P A U L   B .   K I N G

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Private First Class Paul B. King was killed in action in Belgium January 14, 1945. A letter from Charles A. Pike, Captain of Infantry, Commanding, to Mrs. Paul B. King states as follows:

"Your husband, Pfc. Paul B. King, 36195489 was killed in action 14 January 1945 during our advance near Jenneville, Belgium. Our company was given a mission of attacking through a heavily wooded area. When time came for the company to move forward, Pfc. King volunteered as advance scout for the unit. During the attack your husband captured two prisoners. In trying to evacuate them he was shot by a sniper. He died instantly from the wound received.

"He was buried in U. S. Military Cemetery Number 1 at Grand Failly, France, with an appropriate service conducted by a Protestant Chaplain.

"He did his duty splendidly and was admired by all who knew him. He gave his life in battle in the service of his country."

U. S. S. S. S.

U. S. S. S. S.

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Twenty-five Class Paul A. Smith was killed in  
action in Belgium January 14, 1945. A letter from  
Charles E. King, Captain of Infantry, Commanding,

to Mrs. Paul A. King dated as follows:

"Dear husband, Mr. Paul A. King, Sergeant was  
killed in action in Belgium January 14, 1945 during our advance  
near Tannenberg, Belgium. Our company was given

a mission of attacking through a heavily wooded  
area. Then the men for the company to move  
forward, Mr. King volunteered as advance scout for

the unit. During the attack your husband  
captured two prisoners. In trying to traverse  
them he was shot by a sniper. He died instantly

from the wound received.  
We are buried in U. S. Military Cemetery  
Sector I at Grand Follet, France, with an

exhumation service scheduled by a Protestant  
chaplain.  
We did the duty splendidly and was killed

by all the men who. He was the life in battle  
in the service of his country."



Paul entered the service in the army in March 1942 and received his basic training at Camp Wallace, Texas, and received further training at Fort Lewis, Washington, and was sent from there to the Aleutian Islands where he spent twenty-one months on the islands of Adak and Umnake.

He had a twenty-one day furlough in the spring of 1944 after which he reported to Fort Bliss, Texas, for further training before going to France. He was in combat on the Aleutians and helped to take Attu. He fought in the battle at Metz and in the battle of the Bulge. He had a second furlough in August 1944.

#### Birth and Education

Paul B. King was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, February 13, 1918, son of Neil F. King, who was born June 19, 1890, and Ethel Baker King, who was born July 22, 1893. They also became the parents of:

Dale, who was born January 18, 1924, married Theresa Dennany, was a Corporal and served in the army in Holland and was discharged and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Devona, born July 5, 1922, resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Paul attended the Lincoln, Vine Street and South Westnedge Schools in Kalamazoo where he did



the work of the grades, after which he entered State High School and was graduated June 18, 1936. He then took post graduate work in Central High School. He was a star track man and was especially interested in chemistry and planned, if possible, to pursue further his studies in chemistry.

His experience as an employe was with the State Hospital and the Saniwax Paper Company.

#### Marriage

On September 22, 1944, Paul B. King was married to Kathryn B. Doornhaag, of 107 North Clarendon street, Kalamazoo, Michigan. She was the daughter of Joseph and Dieuwke Verdries Doornhaag and was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, February 2, 1923. The wedding took place in Chapel 13, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Chaplain Charles Rector officiating.

Mrs. King stayed a short time with her husband and then returned to her work as a truck driver for the Railway Express in Kalamazoo.

#### Personal Characteristics

Paul was about five feet eleven inches tall, of slender build, and had light brown hair and brown eyes.

He liked to swim, bowl, hunt and box. While





in the Aleutians he won a championship in boxing. He also enjoyed playing tennis and fishing and he played a good game of golf.

Paul was musical. When but a lad he would practice for long periods tooting a horn. He also played the violin and was interested in musical programs on the radio.

He was a very brilliant student, especially apt in wood work and made some nice pieces of furniture.

He was a fine, honorable young man, reverent, kind, wholesome and clean. His personal demeanor and high ideals endeared him to a host of friends.

When duty called him to leave his home he never wavered, but with singleness of purpose to do his part to help his country, he went out bravely into the unknown.

Paul was a baptized member of the North Presbyterian Church and attended its Sunday school and worship services.

He sleeps today in the solitude of a distant land, but in the hearts of his family and friends his precious memory abides.

On February 11, 1945, the Reverend Frank Bachelor, D. D., conducted a memorial service









R O B E R T   D A V I D   K I N G

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Robert David King was born at 933 Albert avenue Kalamazoo, Michigan, December 26, 1922, the son of Nelson C. King and Dora Lenora Wirgau Klein King.

Nelson C. King was born in Ontario, Canada, October 12, 1885, the son of George and Elizabeth Pattemore King.

George King was born in February, 1850, at Chilthorne, Dormer, England, and was married in the Church of England in that place March 27, 1870. In August 1872, Mr. and Mrs. George King with a small baby daughter sailed for the United States of America in a sailing vessel and were five weeks and four days crossing the Atlantic Ocean. They landed in New York City in September 1872. In the fall of 1873 they moved to Brockville, Ontario, Canada, where they became very prosperous farmers.

The following are the names of the brothers and sisters of Nelson C. King: Sarah Ann, born July 19, 1871, married J. E. Hockey; John Frederick, born January 9, 1873, in New York City; George Thomas, born February 9, 1875; William Henry, born January





19, 1879; Martha Louise, born January 29, 1881, married M. Nidd; Charles Wellington, born February 3, 1883; Henry Elton, born May 24, 1888; Ethel June, born August 14, 1889, married A. Boulton. George King, the father of these children, died at Brockville July 27, 1937, at the age of eighty-eight.

Nelson C. King came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, when he was eighteen or nineteen years of age and found employment with the Kalamazoo Stove Company.

November 17, 1915, he was married to Dora Lenora Wirgau Klein by the Reverend U. L. Montgomery at his home. She was born in Stillwell, LaPorte county, Indiana, March 8, 1895, daughter of Julius A. and Caroline A. Greening Wirgau of German descent. Mr and Mrs. Wirgau were also the parents of:

Earl, who married and resides in Detroit and is a policeman in the traffic department; Everett D., who is married and resides in Detroit; Alma Mary, who married Peter Pellerin, deceased, and resides in Flint, Michigan.

Dora Lenora moved with her parents to Michigan City, Indiana, when she was one year of age and lived there eleven years, when she went to Grand Rapids, Michigan. After one and one-half years in that city she came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, about 1909. During her school days she worked some and

18, 1873; Charles Jones, born January 29, 1881,  
 married M. W. 1894; Charles W. Jones, born February  
 1, 1883; Henry Jones, born May 24, 1888; Ethel Jones,  
 born August 14, 1889, married A. Jones, George  
 King, the father of James O. King, died at  
 Stockville July 27, 1907, at the age of eighty-eight.  
 Nelson O. King was an American, Wisconsin,  
 when he was eleven or thirteen years of age and  
 found employment with the Wisconsin State Company.  
 November 17, 1913, he was married to John  
 Leona W. King, the daughter of J. L. Jones,  
 at his home. She was born in Illinois, 1878,  
 county, Illinois, March 8, 1878, daughter of John  
 A. and Corolla A. W. W. King of German descent.  
 Mr. and Mrs. King have also the parents of:  
 Carl, who married and resides in Detroit and is a  
 physician in the retail department; Everett H., who  
 is married and resides in Detroit; Alice Mary, who  
 married Peter Kellie, deceased, and resides in  
 Flint, Michigan.  
 John Leona moved with her parents to Wisconsin  
 City, Indiana, when she was one year of age and  
 lived there eleven years, when she went to Grand  
 Rapids, Michigan. After one and one-half years in  
 that city she came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, about  
 1893. During her school days she worked some and



worked later as a practical nurse and also as an operator with the Bell Telephone Company.

April 12, 1913, Dora Lenora Wirgau was married by Reverend Father Fitzpatrick in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Kalamazoo to Henry A. Klein who died June 22, 1914, soon after the birth of his son, Paul A., which occurred June 6, 1914.

By a former marriage, Nelson C. King became the father of: Annabelle Louise, who married Harold E. Boekhout, who is now, 1944, in the United States Navy; and Esther Elizabeth, who married Ward E. Goodrich and became the mother of Judith Ann, born August 19, 1932.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson C. King began housekeeping in Kalamazoo at 1625 James street and in 1918 moved to 933 Albert avenue, where they still reside.

They became the parents of:

Leona Alta, born September 4, 1916, married Robert Joseph Webster, a Lieutenant in the United States Army, and became the mother of Robert Joseph Jr., born August 25, 1936, & Betty Ann Louise, born [redacted]; Susan Judith, born [redacted];

Arlene Alice, who was born August 31, 1918, and died October 6, 1919;

Arloa Alva, born September 4, 1920, became a Registered Nurse and married Martin E. Duke, a Sergeant in the Medical Corps; and now overseas;

Robert David, the subject of this record, who attended the Roosevelt Public School through the



ninth grade and was in the twelfth grade in Central High School when he enlisted in the Marines January 5, 1942.

Robert David King took his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, and received awards for sharp-shooting, bayonetting, machine gunning, pistol shooting, grenade throwing and shooting the automatic rifle.

In February, 1942, Robert was transferred to Pensacola, Florida, and did guard duty. He was selected to be one of ten to be sent to the Norfolk Navy Yard in West Virginia for special sea-school training, after which he was assigned to the S. S. Savannah at Portsmouth, South Carolina, and sent on convoy duty, attending the captain and also firing anti-aircraft guns. While he was on the S. S. Savannah his mail to his parents came quite regularly, but from the time he was transferred from that ship his movements were little known.

For a time he was at the Brooklyn Navy Yard supposedly waiting for transport to Iceland and was lost in the North Atlantic March 6, 1943. The official declaration of presumptive death was signed by Lt. General A. A. Vandegrift, U. S. Marines.

Memorial services were held in Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo, June 18, 1944, Sunday evening,





the Reverend Arthur E. Wulf preaching the sermon. Music was furnished by the Trinity Lutheran choir.

#### Personal Appearance

Robert was about six feet two inches tall and weighed about one hundred seventy pounds. He had light brown hair and blue eyes.

He was interested in athletics and played base ball, was expert in tennis, and played foot ball and basket ball, being a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church teams in soft ball and basket ball.

Robert was also interested in painting and had real artistic taste. He especially enjoyed sea scenes.

He was always jolly and popular with the boys and girls of his own age and took a very great interest in his nephew, Robert Joseph Webster.

He was a Boy Scout and was baptized and confirmed in the Trinity Lutheran Church. He was thoughtful and conscientious and gave his parents and friends reason to be proud of him.

We add his name to the roll of honor where the finest young manhood of Kalamazoo and of the nation have by their supreme sacrifice preserved the liberty won by their fathers. It remains for the living to see that they have not died in vain.





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS GREETING

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HAS AWARDED THE

P U R P L E   H E A R T

Established by General George Washington at Newburgh,  
New York, August 7, 1782

TO

Private ROBERT D. KING, U. S. Marine Corps

For Military Merit and for Wounds Received in Action

Resulting in his Death.

Given under my hand in the City of Washington

This 29th Day of March 1944

A. A. Vandegrift  
Lt. Gen. U. S. M. C.  
The Commandant U. S. Marine Corps

Frank Knox  
Secretary of the Navy

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME

WE GREET YOU IN THE LORD

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND HIS EXECUTIVE

OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
JANUARY 1, 1913

TO

THE HONORABLE ROBERT D. ALDER, U. S. SENATOR

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND FOR SENATE RECORDS IN SENATE

RELATIVE TO HIS DEATH.

Given under my hand in the City of Washington

This first day of March 1913

W. W. BENTLEY  
LL. SEN. U. S. S.  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
SENATE RECORDS  
JANUARY 1, 1913

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kitsmiller





J O S E P H   K I T S M I L L E R  
J O A N N A   B L O U S E   K I T S M I L L E R

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Among the sturdy settlers of the earlier days in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, none were more sturdy or contributed more toward the development of the country than those of German descent. The Kitsmiller families were second to none in this respect. They raised large families and made the name widely and well known for industry, thrift, integrity and good citizenship.

Joseph Kitsmiller was one of this number and did his part as a pioneer and was ably assisted by his wife. He was born in Pennsylvania, May 24, 1820. He attended the rural school and when a young man went to reside in Licken County, Ohio, and worked on a farm. About 1865, he came with his family to Michigan and settled in Berlin, the name of which was changed to Marne during the World War. Later the family moved to Ottawa County, Michigan.

In politics, Joseph Kitsmiller was a Demo-





crat. He was a member and attended the Lutheran Church in Berlin and other places where he resided. His wife was Joanna Blouse. They were the parents of:

John, born about 1848, married a Sebastian girl, went to Washington state and Oregon, engaged in the lumber business and died in Oregon before 1895;

Rose, born October 28, 1853, married Albert Woodman, resided in Berlin (Marne) mother of Edith, born June 29, 1886, resided in Grand Haven, Michigan, died July 31, 1938;

Elsie, who married Bert Van Sischo;

Isaac, married Emma Waring, parents of:

Leon, who married Lillie Vogt, resides in Kalamazoo;

Amy, who married Searle Spencer (Monroe) resides in Otsego Township, Allegan County, Michigan;

Katherine, who married Frank Stedman, parents of eight children;

Nathan, deceased;

Annie, married Frank Woodman and is deceased;

William, born October 6, 1861, married Katie Mudgett, deceased. He resides in Otsego, Michigan; parents of:

Howard,

Lena, who married Hale Whistler and resides in Paw Paw;

Frances, who married Ivan Dunfield and resides in Kalamazoo;

George, born November 14, 1864, married Hattie Hull September 14, 1895. She was born July 3, 1866;



Clara, born April 5, 1869, married Peter Van Blaus.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kitsmiller died in the year 1906.

George Kitsmiller was born in Licken County, Ohio, and moved with his parents to Berlin (Marne), Michigan when he was six months old. He attended the rural school and worked on his father's farm and dug ditches for about fourteen years until 1897 when he bought 80 acres of land in section 33 of Watson Township, Allegan County, Michigan. Since 1883 he has owned 20 acres in section 3, Otsego Township. The farm on which Mr. George Kitsmiller resides was taken from the government by William Dell. When Mr. Kitsmiller bought the farm it was mostly cleared with some timber. In 1938, the farm was leased by an oil company with a view of drilling for oil, Allegan County having proved to be an oil producing area.

Mrs. George Kitsmiller was the daughter of Arelia Jacobs and Marcus C. Hull, who resided at one time in Chautauqua, New York State, and were married in 1859. They had one son, Frederick, born August 18, 1861, married Louise Chalker, died in 1928. Mr. and Mrs. Marcus C. Hull were





buried in Orangeville, Barry County, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kitsmiller, at the time of this writing, 1938, reside on the farm to which they came soon after they were married and are among the highly respected citizens of that community.





Wubbe Klassen



W U B B O   K L A A S S E N

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Wubbo Klaassen was born in Minnesota August 17, 1919, the son of Klaas and Hilga Klaassen, both of whom were born in the Netherlands and also became the parents of:

Harm, older than Wubbo and at the time of this writing in 1945, is in the army overseas and was married to May Adams;

Sievert, also older than Wubbo, married Elizabeth Vanderveen and they became the parents of Helen, Elsie Mae and Clara Jean and reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Ida, who married Henry Luthinger and they became the parents of two sons and reside in Dowagiac, Michigan; and

Jennie, who married Richard Smits and became the mother of Anna and resides in Decatur, Michigan.

When Wubbo was a small boy the family moved to Decatur, Michigan, where they have since resided. Wubbo attended the Decatur school and shortly before finishing high school went to work on a farm.

A little later he was married to Marie Bosma of Decatur, Michigan, who was born August 13, 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Wubbo Klaassen moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, about 1940 and have made this city their





home since that time. They became the parents of:

Anna Mae, born [REDACTED], in Decatur, Mich.;

Klaas Alfred, born August 17, 1941, on the anniversary of the birth of his young father, in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Ben Lee, born [REDACTED], in Kalamazoo, Michigan; and

Helen Joyce, born December 31, 1944, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

When Wubbo Klaassen first came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, he worked at the Kalamazoo Paper Mill and later at the Riverside Foundry as a furnace tender. He was mechanically minded and liked to tinker with automobiles and machinery.

#### Military Experience

Wubbo Klaassen was drafted June 28, 1944 and was inducted at Fort Sheridan, but received most of his training at Camp Croft, South Carolina, where he stayed for seventeen weeks.

He was home on furlough for ten days in November 1944 and then returned to service at Camp Croft, South Carolina, and was sent to Fort Meade, Maryland. He was taken with lung trouble and was hospitalized in New York. When released he returned to Fort Meade.

Later Wubbo worked at Camp Miles Standish, Massachusetts, unloading the wounded who were returning by boat from overseas.

once since that time. They became the parents of:

Anne Lee, born May 27, 1940, in Dundee, Wis.

Elmer Alfred, born August 17, 1941, at the University of the City of the Young, Father, in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Don Lee, born September 6, 1943, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and

John Lee, born December 11, 1944, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

When Elmer Alfred first came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, he worked at the Kalamazoo Paper Mill and later at the University of the City of the Young. He was exceptionally minded and liked to tinker with automobiles and machinery.

#### Elmer Alfred

Elmer Alfred was drafted June 25, 1944 and was inducted at Fort Sheridan, but received most of his training at Camp Croft, South Carolina, where he stayed for seventeen weeks.

He was home on furlough for two days in November 1944 and then returned to service at Camp Croft, South Carolina, and was sent to Fort Meade, Maryland. He was taken with lung trouble and was hospitalized in the fort. When released he returned to Fort Meade.

Later Elmer worked at Camp Bliss, Maryland, Kalamazoo, Michigan, including the hospital and was returning to Camp Bliss again.



February 19, 1945, Private First Class, Wubbo Klaassen was shipped overseas from Fort Meade and for a time was in France. He saw combat in Germany where he was attached to an Infantry unit of General Patton's Third Army. He was wounded on March 21 in Germany and removed to a hospital in England where he died from his wounds March 23, 1945.

#### Personal Characteristics

Wubbo Klaassen was six feet two inches tall and weighed about two hundred thirty pounds. He was broad shouldered; stood erect with a fine military carriage. His hair was chestnut brown, his skin was fair and his laughing eyes were blue. His fine even white teeth revealed as he smiled gave him a very attractive appearance.

He enjoyed being at home and helping with the children. He wasn't much given to sports except when it came hunting season and then he shouldered his rifle and hunted rabbits.

He had a good tenor voice and enjoyed singing with his wife whose voice is soprano. He was a member of the First Christian Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, to which Mrs. Klaassen also belongs. These devout parents stood side by side as they presented their children for baptism at the altar

February 19, 1942, Private First Class, 1942  
 Klamm was shipped overseas from Fort Meade and  
 for a time was in France. He was posted in Germany  
 where he was attached to an Infantry unit of  
 General Patton's Third Army. He was wounded on  
 March 21 in Germany and removed to a hospital in  
 England where he died from his wounds March 22,  
 1945.

### Personal Characteristics

Walter Klamm was six feet two inches tall  
 and weighed about two hundred thirty pounds. He  
 was broad shouldered; broad across with a fine  
 military carriage. His hair was chestnut brown,  
 his skin was fair and his laughing eyes were blue.  
 His lips even while smiling revealed as he smiled  
 gave him a very effective appearance.  
 He enjoyed being at home and helping with the  
 children. He wasn't much given to sports except  
 when it came hunting season and then he sported  
 his rifle and loaded traps.  
 He had a good labor voice and enjoyed singing  
 with his wife whose voice is soprano. He was a  
 member of the First Christian Reformed Church in  
 Edinboro, in which Mrs. Klamm also belongs.  
 These devout persons stood side by side as they  
 presented their children for baptism at the altar

of their Church. Wubbo never saw his youngest child and when she was baptized Wubbo's father stood with his son's wife at the altar.

The family was affectionately united and enjoyed driving together and listening to the radio, but loving best of all the old hymns of the Church.

Wubbo was generous and kind. His willing hands were always ready to serve a neighbor in need and he seemed to be ever alert to help wherever he could.

In the roll of the fine young husbands and fathers drafted into their country's service is now added the radiant name of this splendid young citizen, Wubbo Klaassen.





Peter Jack Klop





P E T E R   J A C K   K L O P

1 9 2 4   -   1 9 4 4

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Peter Jack Klop was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, April 19, 1924, the son of Maurice and Jennie Berghuis Klop.

Maurice Klop was born in the Netherlands June 26, 1885, and his wife was born in the home where they now reside, 641 East Vine street in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 31, 1885. He came to Kalamazoo when he was twenty-six years of age. They became the parents of the following other children:

Cornelia, born September 22, 1914, married William Smit and they became the parents of David William June 3, 1944;

Richard, born October 1, 1916, married Ann Veldkamp and they became the parents of Stanley Richard April 11, 1944 - Richard is now, 1945, in Austria, a 1st. Lt., in the army of the U. S. A.;

Betty Jayne, born June 12, 1918, resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Maurice, Jr., born December 29, 1919, married Genevieve Witt and is in the army;

George Thomas, born May 14, 1922, is in the armed service in France;

Janet, born January 16, 1926, is a graduate of Ebenezer Christian School in Kalamazoo;

Marjorie, born April 28, 1928.



Peter Jack Klop attended Ebenezer Christian School through the grades and entered the high school there, but dropped out to go to work at various jobs, one of which was with the Kalamazoo city park department. Later he made a trip to California to see the country and soon after his return to Kalamazoo he was drafted into the United States Army in January 1943.

#### Military Experience

He was first sent to Fort Custer and then to Camp Sibert in Alabama and was assigned to the Chemical Composite Company. He came home on a two weeks furlough after which he returned to Camp Sibert, where he remained except for maneuvers in Virginia. He was granted a second furlough in November 1943 and soon after was shipped out to New Guinea, where he suffered a skull fracture in an accident and died November 10, 1944.

#### Personal Characteristics

Peter Jack Klop, a Private in the army, was six feet tall, slender, with brown hair and blue eyes. He had fine features and his handsome countenance gave him an outstanding appearance in any group.

He was an out-door man, never contented to





stay long within walls. He hiked miles taking along his dog for company when other company was not available. He was an ardent fisherman and hunter and enjoyed competitive games such as foot ball. Especially to his liking were skating, skiing, snow balling in winter and water sports in summer. He was fond of his home and family.

Jack was a member of the First Protestant Christian Reformed Church and faithfully attended the Sunday school and other services. He was an all-round boy, one of Kalamazoo's finest. His good home training and the influence of his Church and the Ebenezer Christian School bore good fruit in the manly character of this young man.

He played well his part in life and gave his all to any enterprise in which he engaged and left behind him warm and tender memories of a splendid man.

The following was composed by his brother,  
Private George Klop:

Eternal stars look down upon thy rest,  
And may thy dreams be blest  
Until the morning breaks upon thy grassy hill.  
And all the empty futile words  
Can never ease the pain or still  
The aching of a heart that broke  
Beside a grassy hill.





Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus Knauss



M R .   &   M R S .  
C Y R U S   L Y N N   K N A U S S

-o-

Cyrus Lynn Knauss was born in the village of Freemansburg, Pennsylvania, December 17, 1855, son of William Henry and Cecilia Lynn Knauss of German descent. William Henry Knauss was born September 5, 1828, was educated in the public schools and a private academy at Easton, Pennsylvania, learned the carpenter's trade and became a boat builder until the Civil War in which he was a soldier. After the war he became a truck farmer at Vineland, New Jersey; later he moved to Easton, where he died April 27, 1892. Cyrus's mother was born February 22, 1832, and died a few weeks following his birth, February 21, 1856. Cyrus had a sister Amelia, who married Emanuel Uhler and died October 22, 1929; a half-sister Annie C., who died October 8, 1927, the wife of Alvin F. Uhler; a half-sister, Sarah Louisa, who married Dr. Harold L. Barnum and died December 26, 1910; and a half-brother, Harry W. Knauss.

Cyrus Lynn Knauss completed the work of the public schools, including high school and then spent two years as an apprenticed carriage painter.





When Cyrus Lynn Knauss was about twenty years of age he came to Michigan and was employed in a carriage factory in Vicksburg for a time and then went to Mendon, Michigan, where he met Mary Josephine Ernst, to whom he was married December 21, 1882, following which the couple took the train for a three months visit in Pennsylvania returning via Lyons, New York, where Mrs. Knauss was born July 4, 1856, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Ernst, who came to Mendon, Michigan, in 1861, where Mary Josephine was educated and afterward taught school. Her brothers and sisters were: Carrie, who married Thomas Harvey and is deceased; George H., who resides in Kalamazoo; Lillie who resides with George; William E., and Dora, both of whom are deceased; and Rose, who married Reverend Leo W. Longenecker, for thirty years the pastor of a Congregational Church in Neillsville, Wisconsin.

For a short time Mr. Knauss worked in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and arrived in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the last of March, 1883, and established their home in the Upjohn block, where they resided for two years and then lived in various parts of the city until August 31, 1919, when they made their home for the remainder of their lives at 521 Stuart

When given this name, and about twenty years  
of age he came to Michigan and was employed in a  
country store in Michigan for a time and then  
went to London, England, where he met Mary Dwyer,  
the first, to whom he was married December 21, 1862.  
Following which the couple took the train for a  
three month visit to Pennsylvania visiting the  
family, New York, where Mrs. Dwyer was born July 4,  
1842, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Dwyer, who  
was at Detroit Michigan, in 1861, where Mary  
Dwyer was educated and attended college school.  
Her children and sisters were: Lillian, who married  
Thomas Dwyer and is deceased; George H., who  
resides in Kansas, Lillian who resides with George  
William H., and Mary, both of whom are deceased;  
and Rose, who married Alexander Lee H. Longenecker,  
for forty years the owner of a newspaper.  
Lillian is married, deceased.  
For a short time Mr. Dwyer worked in Chicago,  
Ill., Michigan, and settled in Kansas, Michigan,  
the last of March, 1863, and resided there some  
in the Union block, where they resided for ten  
years and then lived in various parts of the city  
until August 21, 1879, when they made their home  
for the remainder of their lives at 201 Street



Avenue. They became the parents of:

Winifred Meryl, born March 15, 1884, the first birth in the Upjohn block where the new Woolworth building is now; she is in charge of the Billing Department of the Upjohn Company and resides at 521 Stuart Avenue;

Lynn Ernst, born September 7, 1885, married Alta Burnet June 11, 1910 and died December 19, 1911;

Karl Ernst, born August 4, 1889, married Loise Atkins, became the father of John, born September 1, 1925, Peter, born [REDACTED], Robert, born [REDACTED], resides in Detroit, Michigan, where he is a teacher;

Celia Eve, born June 3, 1894, earned the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science at Western State Teachers College, taught the children of Bertrand Hopper for one year and the children of Dr. Light for a year; she then taught in the Big Rapids schools for two years and in the Detroit public schools for two years; she passed away August 25, 1941, the Reverend L. M. Whitney conducting the funeral with burial in Mountain Home cemetery.

In Kalamazoo, Mr. Knauss was first employed with the Burrell Carriage Company and then with the Michigan Buggy Company, owned by Lay and Lane. He continued with this company until it quit business about 1914. He then worked for the Dort Auto Company until shortly before he died November 18, 1922. His funeral was conducted by the Reverend John Wirt Dunning, D. D., and burial was in

There are two persons of the name:

William Henry, born March 12, 1852, the first  
 child in the family, who was the  
 son of William Henry and Mary Ann  
 in charge of the family of  
 the Henry family and married at  
 the Henry family;

John Henry, born September 7, 1855, married  
 Alice Emma Jones in 1875 and died  
 December 10, 1911;

John Henry, born January 4, 1857, married  
 Alice Emma Jones, became the father of  
 John, born September 1, 1880,  
 Robert, born February 10, 1885,  
 Robert, born March 24, 1891,  
 married in 1891, William, who is  
 in a family;

John Henry, born June 6, 1894, married the  
 daughter of Frederick of New York and  
 daughter of William at William's house  
 in New York City, taught the children  
 of Frederick Henry for one year and  
 the children of Mr. Henry for a year;  
 she then taught in the New York  
 schools for two years and in the  
 United States schools for two years;  
 she passed away August 25, 1941, the  
 daughter of Mr. Henry and the  
 daughter of Mr. Henry in New York.

In 1894, Mr. Henry was first married  
 with the family of Henry and then with the  
 Henry family, who was in New York.  
 Married with the family of Henry in New York  
 about 1894. He was married for the first time  
 in 1894 and married for the second time in  
 1900. The family was married by the Henry  
 family in 1900, and the family was in

Mountain Home cemetery. In personal appearance Mr. Knauss was about five feet, seven inches tall with dark brown hair and blue eyes. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a great fisherman and took a great interest in his home and family. He made many friends and was very industrious. Both Mr. and Mrs. Knauss attended and supported the First Methodist Church in Kalamazoo.

Death came to Mrs. Knauss January 25, 1938. Burial was in Mountain Home cemetery. The Reverend William C. Perdew, who conducted the funeral, paid Mrs. Knauss the following tribute:

"Mrs. Knauss was one who did indeed take life tiptoe to the very last, - on the very day before her death asking that the papers might be saved, for she wanted to keep in touch with everything that was going on in this great world of ours. Her intellectual interests were wide. She enjoyed reading. She kept in touch with current events, and perhaps there are people in Kalamazoo of less than a third of her age who are older than she was at eighty-one."

Very fittingly he quoted from Robert Browning:

"'Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which the first was  
made;  
Our times are in His hand  
Who saith, "A Whole I planned,  
Youth knows but half; trust God; see all,  
nor be afraid.'"

Written in 1941.





James Fabian Knowlton





J A M E S   F A B I A N   K N O W L T O N

1 8 8 4   -   1 9 4 3

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James Fabian Knowlton was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 26, 1884, the son of Julius B. Knowlton of English descent, who was born in Steubenville, Ohio.

James's mother was Rose MacDonald Knowlton, who was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, of Scotch-Irish ancestry.

James attended St. Andrew's Parochial School in Grand Rapids and the public high school in South Bend, Indiana, from which he was graduated.

At the age of eighteen or nineteen he returned to Grand Rapids and was employed in the real estate department of the Michigan Trust Company. His first offices were in the Grand Rapids National Bank building adjoining the offices of Attorney John Dunham.

June 14, 1919, he was married to Mary Blanche Bauer, who was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, April 10, 1896, daughter of John Jacob Bauer and Lucy Ann Lepper Bauer of French, Swiss and German descent.

Mr. and Mrs. James Knowlton resided in Grand



Rapids, Michigan, until March 1, 1933, when they moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and resided on East Main road until he went into the armed service and 712 Academy Street became their home address.

They became the parents of:

Sister Marie Jude (Katherine), born November 18, 1924;

Barbara, born October 26, 1926, at the time this was written in 1944, a senior in St. Augustine High School;

Margaret Mary, born [redacted];

Thomas, born May 24, 1933;

Celine, born August 27, 1936;

Mary, born [redacted]; and

Mary Anne, James and Theresa Marie, all three passing away in childhood.

Soon after coming to Kalamazoo, Mr. Knowlton became associated with the Bank of Kalamazoo and was employed in disposing of real estate assets of the bank, which was closed during the bank holiday and was in the hands of a receiver.

In 1934 he was approved by the State Banking Department and the R. F. C. as property appraiser for banks. He was also appraiser for the Michigan State Highway Department and belonged to the Society of Expert Appraisers. Among many important properties which he appraised were the Columbia Hotel and the Rickman Hotel.





### Military Experience

During World War I James F. Knowlton did military intelligence service in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and was granted a commission as Second Lieutenant in 1921. In 1926 he was promoted to First Lieutenant.

August 16, 1942, Lt. Knowlton was called to duty in the 6th Service Engineers with headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, and appraised the properties in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the Weather Air Force School.

February 1, 1943, he was transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and was with the post engineers there until March 1, 1943, when he was sent to Fort Slocum, New York, for special training for transportation. After six weeks he returned to Camp Kilmer with the Transportation Corps of the Quartermaster's Department.

His last letter to his family was written August 21, 1943, at which time he had been assigned to the Cargo Securities Officers detachment, handling war transportation problems.

October 26, 1943, Mrs. Knowlton received a report that her husband was "missing in action". The following letter tells something of the details:





Dear Mrs. Knowlton:

"It is with deep regret that we have to advise you that Lt. James F. Knowlton who was traveling either as a passenger or officer appointed by the American authorities is considered missing with a large number of the crew of a Norwegian vessel which is believed to have been torpedoed the latter part of last month.

"The vessel made calls at Norfolk and Gibraltar prior to being torpedoed and we may say that we have not heard from either port that your husband had left the ship so that there is every reason to believe that he is one of those considered lost.

"At present the information at hand is very sparing and we hope that before long we shall receive further details. There were only three survivors and two of them we have learned have been picked up by another ship. The other is presently in hospital in Bizerte, North Africa.

"We are sorry we have no other means of conveying this sad news to you but wish to offer our sincerest sympathy and condolences in your loss.

"Yours sincerely, John K. J. Erland, Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission."

On February 5th, 1944, Mrs. Knowlton was notified that her husband had been killed in line of duty September 26, 1943.

Mrs. Knowlton also received from the war department notice that the Purple Heart medal had been posthumously awarded to First Lieutenant James F. Knowlton. This notice came February 22, 1944.

Following the report that Lt. Knowlton was missing in action letters passed between Major General J. A. Ulio, of the War Department, and Mr. J. R. Casselman, Industrial Commissioner of



Grand Rapids, Michigan,, Senator Arthur Vandenberg and Julius H. Amberg, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War and Attorney Fitzgerald of Kalamazoo, all trying to get the facts concerning Lieutenant Knowlton.

Lieutenant Knowlton was one of three trustees of the Kalamazoo Chapter Reserve Officers association with Colonel Lee Cahill and Major Charles Schutz.

At the time of his entering service of his country, he was president of the Kalamazoo County Democratic Club.

#### Personal Characteristics

Lieutenant James F. Knowlton was five feet eight inches tall and weighed about one hundred fifty-five pounds, with very dark brown hair.

He was a great reader and enjoyed detective stories and western adventures. He was interested in people and was civic minded and participated in public affairs. He enjoyed music and played the piano. He lived a very full, busy life and made many friends. He was devoted to his home and gave a wealth of affection to his growing family.

Lt. Knowlton was deeply spiritual and devoted to his Church. He was a daily Communicant and read his Bible every day.





The following is a copy of a letter which shows the high regard for Lt. Knowlton held by the writer:

November 11, 1943.

Mrs. James F. Knowlton,  
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Dear Mary:

Maxine and I were deeply grieved and shocked to learn recently that Jimmie was reported as missing after the torpedoing of his ship in the North Atlantic. I realize that there is little which I can say at a time like this which would be of any value. I do want you to know that I had considered Jim one of my best friends and although I had seen but little of him since you moved to Kalamazoo, I shall miss him greatly. Both he and you did a great deal to make my first few years in Grand Rapids enjoyable ones. Jim, with his radiant happiness, his genial personality, and his keen sense of humor did much to enrich the lives of those with whom he came in contact. That he gave his life in the service of his country really crowns his career with magnificence.

We are thinking of you, Mary, and you have our best wishes. If at any time there is anything that I can do for you, don't hesitate to call on me.

Cordially,

Denley I. Priest,

Attorney-at-law, Grand Rapids.





Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Kreitzer



Frank Kreitzer

M R .   &   M R S .  
F R A N K   A   K R E I T Z E R  
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1 8 7 0   -   1 9 4 1

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Frank A. Kreitzer was born in Constantine, Michigan, September 10, 1873, son of Christopher and Eliza Kuch Kreitzer.

February 24, 1907, he was married to Clara Bittenbender, who was born September 22, 1870, in Mottville, St. Joseph county, Michigan, the daughter of Henry D., and Elizabeth Bachert Bittenbender, who were the parents of ten other children: Sarah, Joseph, Conrad, Peter, Mary, Anna, Rosella, all deceased; Emma, who married Mr. Anderson and resides in Constantine, Michigan, at the time of this writing in 1943; Elizabeth, who also resides in Constantine; and Alvema, who married Mr. Morris and resides in Shelbyville, Michigan.

Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Kreitzer began housekeeping in a home on the corner of Frank and Edwards streets in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Shortly afterward they moved to 1418 North Edwards street and later to Richardson street. In 1909, they bought a home at 1115 North Rose street, where





Mrs. Kreitzer passed away December 5, 1941, and where Mr. Kreitzer continues to reside.

Mr. Kreitzer has been a hard and steady worker. At two periods of his life he was employed by the Michigan Buggy Company, the second time being for the ten years prior to the burning of the factory building, after which he went with the company to the south side of Kalamazoo. He worked for Michael Linihan more than a year producing fanning mills. From there he went to the Kalamazoo Interior Finishing Company, which, after going into bankruptcy, was reorganized as the Union Trim and Lumber Company, which retained Mr. Kreitzer as an employee. In 1931 an accident in the plant deprived him of the sight of one eye and he retired.

In politics, Mr. Kreitzer is independent. In church affiliation, he and his wife preferred the Bethel Baptist Church.

Mr. Kreitzer is of medium build, enjoys baseball, fishing and cribbage. Mrs. Kreitzer was small in stature and weight with black hair and dark eyes. She was of a friendly disposition and even tempered. She enjoyed reading good books, sewing and handwork, especially making laces. She was fond of flowers and raised many of them. She liked driving with





her husband and friends. Mrs. Kreitzer had been raised in a Christian home and all her life showed her religious upbringing. Her funeral was conducted by the Reverend Richard F. Barram, pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church, with burial in Riverside cemetery.

"Farewell, dear voyager, 'twill not be long,  
Thy work is done, now may peace rest with thee;  
Thy kindly thoughts and deeds, they will live on  
This is not death, but immortality."













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